Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 01 STATE 205779 42 **ORIGIN EB-11** INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 /149 R DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:LICOHEN:CLJ APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:EWKEMPE ARA/CEN:SLIPPE(DRAFT) EA/J:RDANKERT(SUBS) ARA/EP:KGUTHRIE(DRAFT) EA/ROC:BLAIR(DRAFT) ARA/MEX:RKING(DRAFT) EA/K:HNEWSOM(DRAFT) ARA/CAR:JSIMMS(DRAFT) EA/PRCM:PLINCOLN(SUBS) EB/OT/STA:LICOHEN EUR/WE:EBEIGEL (SUBS) EUR/CAN:WBROWN (SUBS) EUR/CE:LHEILCHLER (SUB) AGR/FAS:RMCCONNEL (DRAFT) ----- 007077 R 171901Z OCT 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE AMEMBASSY QUITO AMEMBASSY MEXICO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY OTTAWA USLO PEKING AMEMBASSY SEOUL AMEMBASSY TAIPEI CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CS, EC, MX, DR, JA, FR, GW, CA, KS, TS, CH SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REFS: A. STATE 173821; B. SEOUL 6099; C. TAIPEI 5471

1. COSTA RICAN ECONOMIC MINISTER SOLARA MET WITH DEART-MENT OFFICERS ON OCT. 12 TO DISCUSS RUMORED NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAJOR SUPPLIERS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS AIMED AT RESTRAINING EXPORTS TO THE U.S. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SIZABLE RECENT INVESTMENT IN ENLARGED MUSHROOM GROWING AND CANNING FACILITIES IN COSTA RICA. THE MAIN MARKET FOR THE OUTPUT OF THESE FACILITIES IS THE U.S. ANY RESTRAINTS ON GOCR EXPORTS

WOULD IMPINGE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE WONDERED WHETHER

THE GOCR WOULD IMPROVE ITS BARGAINING POSITION BY AN EARLY

ENTRY INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON A RESTRAINT LEVEL WITH THE U.S.

- 2. ON OCT. 11, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE EMBASSY OF ECUADOR OUTLINING CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY THE GOCR. THE NOTE CONCLUDED THAT "THE GOE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO PARTICIPATE (SIC) IN AN ORDERLY MARKETING ARRANGEMENT FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS, IF AN ALLOCATION EQUAL TO THE FOREGOING EXPORT CAPACITY (4 MILLION POUNDS DRAINED WEIGHT BY THE END OF 1974) WOULD BE MADE TO ECUADOR."
- 3. WE WILL SHORTLY TELL THE APPROPRIATE GOE OFFICIAL, ORALLY, WHAT WE TOLD SOLARA; THAT DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT AN INFORMAL RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT WERE UNDERWAY IN TAIPEI AND

SEOUL AND ARE LIMITED TO THOSE COUNTRIES. 90 PERCENT OF U.S. CANNED MUSHROOM IMPORTS ARE SUPPLIED BY THE ROC AND ROK. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS AND THERE IS NO PRESENT INTENTION TO DO SO. HOWEVER, SHARP INCREASES IN EXPORTS TO THE U.S. FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OVER A BRIEF PERIOD COULD LEAD TO STRONG PRESSURES FOR INCREASING THE GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, DETAILS OF THE APPROCONFIDENTIAL.

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ACHES MADE IN SEOUL AND TAIPEI, AS WELL AS THE INITIAL RESPONSES, ARE BEING REPEATED(REFTELS)TO ADDRESSEES FOR BACKGROUND.

5. FOR SAN JOSE, MEXICO CITY AND SANTO DOMINGO: THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPORT ON PRESENT PLANS FOR EXPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS. ANY INFORMATION ON THE LOCAL INDUSTRY'S ACTUAL AND PROJECTED PRODUCTION

CAPACITY, AREA PLANTED, YIELDS PER SQUARE FOOT, EMPLOYMENT LEVELS, TOTAL INVESTMENT INVOLVED AND IDENTITY OF INVESTORS WOULD BE WELCOME.

6. FOR QUITO: A COPY OF THE GOE NOTE IS BEING POUCHED. THIS NOTE CONTAINS MUCH OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA. 5; HOWEVER, ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIAL DEVELOPED BY THE EMBASSY WOULD BE WELCOME.

7. COPIES OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION REPORT CITED IN REFTEL A ARE BEING POUCHED TO ACTION POSTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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